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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/805,791	03/14/2001	John Eugene Planalp	8381/PRGA 0102 PUSP	2817

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THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DIVISION
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EXAMINER

THAI, HANH B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2171

DATE MAILED: 01/08/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/805,791

Applicant(s)

PLANALP ET AL.

Examiner

Hanh B Thai

Art Unit

2171

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 October 2003.

2a) ☐ This action is FINAL.

2b) ☒ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-72 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-72 is/are rejected.

7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:

1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-72 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Specification

2. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because the cross-reference on page 11, Specification is not provided. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-72 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Turnbull (U. S. Patent no. 5,208,765) of record in view of Fahey (U. S. Patent no. 5,970,476).

Regarding claims 1, 13-14, 31 and 55, Turnbull discloses a method for managing product development (Fig. 6), the method comprising:

- storing technical requirements data for a product including product data (500, Fig. 6, Turnbull), material data, and packaging data (510, Fig. 1 & 6, Turnbull);
- linking unstructured documents (col. 24, lines 28-38, Turnbull) to the technical requirements data (see 100, Fig. 2, Turnbull);
- grouping technical requirements data into technical requirements summaries to define a finished product (see Fig. 1, Turnbull); product control matrix (100,

Fig. 1) has a multiplicity of stages containing requirements and that corresponds to the summary of requirements;

- recording changes made to the technical requirements data and associated user identification information (see col.2, lines 30-34, Turnbull);
- electronically communicating approved technical requirements data for use in manufacturing and distributing the finished product (see col. 8, lines 3-35, Turnbull).

Turnbull, however, does not explicitly disclose “storing approval information for the technical requirements data in the structured relational database” and “searchability among related technical requirements summaries”. Fahey, on the other hand, discloses the step of storing the grouped data elements, which correspond to “approval information”, in a relational database (see Abstract; Summary; col. 5, line 40 to col. 6, line 13 and col. 9, line 11-46, Fahey). Fahey further discloses a search or extract data from the operational databases (see col. 10, line 47 to col. 11, line 4, Fahey). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include the claimed features as taught by Fahey. The motivation of doing so would have been to integrate a plurality of data subsystem into a data warehouse structure (see col. 2, line 40-50, Fahey).

Regarding claims 2, 32 and 56, Turnbull/ Fahey combination further discloses an electronic signature that uniquely identifies a user (see col. 4, lines 29-31, Turnbull).

Regarding claims 3, 33 and 57, Turnbull/ Fahey combination further discloses the step of linking unstructured documents comprises associating structured attributes with the unstructured

documents and storing the associated structured attributes in the relational database (col. 5, line 40 to col. 6, line 13 and col. 9, line 11-46, Fahey).

Regarding claims 4 and 58, Turnbull/ Fahey combination further discloses validating the technical requirements data during entry relative to previously entered technical requirements data based on predetermined rules (see col. 7, lines 4-16, Turnbull).

Regarding claims 5-7, 34-36, 59-61 and 67, Turnbull/ Fahey combination further discloses the technical requirements summaries include at least two levels of summaries, the method further comprising: storing separate approval information for each level of technical requirements summaries (104, Fig.1, Turnbull).

Regarding claims 8, 16, 37, 42, 62 and 69, Turnbull/ Fahey combination further discloses the technical requirements summaries include a formula card, a raw material specification, a packing standard, a packaging material specification, a supplier approval, and an approved country matrix (see col. 4, line 47 to col. 5, line 16, Fahey).

Regarding claims 9, 38 and 63, Turnbull/Fahey combination further discloses the limiting access to subsets of technical requirements data based on a user identification and password (see col. 11, line 20-60, Fahey).

Regarding claims 10, 39 and 64, Turnbull/Fahey combination further discloses the step of grouping technical requirements data comprises grouping data to form different technical requirements summaries based on requirements or practices of a particular geographic region (see col. 14, lines 17-23, Turnbull).

Regarding claims 11 and 65, Turnbull/Fahey combination further discloses the step of grouping technical requirements data comprises combining different technical requirements data

to form technical requirements summaries based on requirements or practices of business units within an organization (see col. 9, line 11-29, Fahey).

Regarding claims 12, 15, 40-41, 66 and 68, Turnbull/Fahey combination further discloses the step of storing technical requirements data comprises storing draft, approved, and archived versions of the technical requirements data; and linking the draft, approved, and archived versions of the technical requirements within the relational database (see col. 5, line 40-45 and col. 10, line 12-22, Fahey).

Regarding claims 17, 43 and 70, Turnbull/Fahey combination further discloses the step of grouping technical requirements data into technical requirements summaries comprises grouping package components, package amounts, in-process package measures, and finished package measures into a packing standard (see col. 4, line 12 to col. 5, line 17, Fahey).

Regarding claims 18-25, 44-49 and 71-72, Turnbull/Fahey combination further discloses consumer level data, customer level data, and transport level data (see col. 9, line 11-46, Fahey). "Sales database" in Fahey system must include "consumer level data, customer level data, and transport level data".

Regarding claims 26 and 50, Turnbull/Fahey combination further discloses the step of grouping technical requirements data into technical requirements summaries comprises grouping raw material data by approved supplier (see step 206, Fig. 5, Fahey).

Regarding claims 27 and 51, Turnbull/Fahey combination further discloses the step of grouping technical requirements data into technical requirements summaries comprises grouping finished products by approved country of sale (see col. 4, line 12-46, Fahey).

Regarding claims 28 and 52, Turnbull/Fahey combination further discloses the step of linking unstructured documents comprises linking text documents to the technical requirements data (see col. 6, lines 63-68, Turnbull).

Regarding claims 29 and 53, Turnbull/Fahey combination further discloses the text documents specify test methods, process standards, general standards, standard operating procedures, or recommended procedures (see col. 7, lines 4-16, Turnbull).

Regarding claims 30 and 54, Turnbull/Fahey combination further discloses the step of linking unstructured documents comprises linking artwork for product packaging to the technical requirements data (see col. 7, lines 27-36, Turnbull).

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Dragon et al (US Patent no. 6,625,161) discloses method and apparatus for material requirements planning.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hanh B Thai whose telephone number is 703-305-4883. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 AM - 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic can be reached on 703-308-1436. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

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Hanh Thai ^{HT}
Art Unit 2171
January 2, 2004



UYEN LE
AU 2171